

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney thanks the Examiner for the additional comments in the Advisory Action dated 21 February 2006. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner stated (in pertinent part):

Applicants argue that the claims require ingredients which together constitute about 100% by weight of the adhesive composition. Applicants go on and state that crystalline polypropylene as required by the cited prior art references is not among the ingredients listed in Applicants' claims. Therefore, Applicants conclude that the applied references do not anticipate the claimed subject matter.

The examiner disagrees. The arguments are not found persuasive for patentability because they are not commensurate with the scope of the claims. The reciting "the adhesive composition comprises" and "the amorphous poly-alpha-olefin, tackifier and one or more additives together constitute about 100% by weight of the composition" and "fillers" together suggest that the adhesive composition of the present invention could have included crystalline polypropylene."

In summary, the Examiner's position is that the term "fillers" recited in Applicants' claims reads on isotactic polypropylene as disclosed in U.S. Publication 2002/0124956 to Zhou. However, persons skilled in the art typically understand "fillers" to mean discrete particulate materials that do not melt at polymer processing temperatures, and do not intimately mix with a polymer matrix. Furthermore, amended Claims 1, 24 and 25 limit the fillers to titanium dioxide, carbon black and calcium carbonate, which are listed on page 11, lines 13-14 of the specification. The recited Markush group for fillers plainly does not include isotactic polypropylene.

Furthermore, the Examiner erroneously states that the adhesives referred to in Table 1 of Zhou contain 50-65% by weight tackifier. The adhesives referred to in Table 1 are described as either containing 100% RT 2730 or 20% crystalline polypropylene with 80% RT 2730 (¶¶ 91-92). RT 2730 is 100% neat

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APAO without an added tackifier (See ¶ 37 of Zhou and Applicants' specification, p. 10, lines 5-8).

Accordingly, no claim is anticipated or rendered obvious. Applicants believe that all issues communicated to date have been overcome. If the Examiner detects any new or unresolved issues, then please telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maxwell J. Petersen".

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